

# Tools of the Mind



## Mary Beck Elementary is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Mary Beck Elementary School, serving 499 students grades K-6 centrally located in the heart of Elkhart, IN.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** Mary Beck's students are 51% Hispanic, 25% African-American, 18% White, and 4% Multi-Racial. Approximately 42% of our students are ELL. All of our ELL students are Spanish-speaking.

**OUR TEACHERS** Mary Beck's academic faculty consists of 29 grade-level teachers, 3 certified Special Area teachers (i.e. PE, Art, & Music), 4.5 Interventionists, 4 Special Education teachers, and 2 ELL teachers.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** The Tools of the Mind kindergarten program goal is to bridge the gap in early childhood students by having a positive impact on their self-regulation, reasoning ability, and the control of attention. There are academic improvements in reading, vocabulary and mathematics at the end of kindergarten that lead them into first grade. It is a comprehensive math and literacy program where the core curriculum provides SCOPE and sequence of activities designed to promote growth. There are three major components with the self-regulation: inhibitory control, working memory, and cognitive flexibility. The students engage in dramatic play that is intentional, planned, and social. The multicultural nature of the program provides the opportunity to enrich vocabulary and build background knowledge through cross-curricular activities. Through daily Graphics practice, we are seeing growth in fine motor skills.

**OUR STEPS** All 77 of our kindergarten students are involved in this program. We have four kindergarten classrooms with a highly qualified teacher in each classroom and one instructional paraprofessional who are all Tools of the Mind program trained. The trainings are implemented in stages throughout the school year where they learned how to implement the program effectively. A common prep to collaborate regularly, coaching/support from a district Tools of the Mind trained teacher, financial support for materials, and extra flexibility in learning and implementing the program are all supports that we use to sustain the program.

### IN OUR OWN WORDS

*"Students are using what they are learning during background week and applying it to their writing."*

*---Mary Beck Kindergarten Teacher*

*"Students are using the new vocabulary in daily conversations and when writing."*

*---Mary Beck Kindergarten Teacher*

For more information about our school or corporation, email: JeNeva D. Adams, Principal, [jdadams@elkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:jdadams@elkhart.k12.in.us) or visit our website: <http://elkhart.k12.in.us/>